

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

It is outrageous that Sinclair can use a vehicle meant to enlighten the public to present more political muck. This is far more offensive than Janet Jackson's publicity stunt. Ignoring their disregard for decency, if they want to stoop so low they should have to pay for it as a political advertisement like everyone else. Thank you.